road map provided therein. They had planned various quality implementation project in the refineries to meet the revised fuel specifications. However, keeping in view the constraints faced by the oil industry, occasioned by certain unexpected and unforeseen problems, the Government is considering slight alterations in the programme of introduction of Bharat Stage-II/Euro-III equivalent fuels in the country. These will be notified shortly.

**Iran-India Gas Pipeline Project**

101. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a sealing of $ 49 billion LNG deal with Iran, India achieved another breakthrough in getting Bangladesh to agree on passing of Myanmar-India natural gas pipeline through its territory;

(b) whether India, Pakistan and Iran have agreed to prepare feasibility report in regard to the proposal of 18000 crore Iran-India gas pipeline project;

(c) if so, whether a high level delegation from Iranian Petroleum Ministry visited New Delhi during the month of January, 2005 to give proposal a concrete shape; and

(d) if so, to what extent this will be helpful for India?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) India is pursuing import of natural gas both from Iran and Myanmar. Recently, an understanding has been reached with Iran to import 5 MMTPA of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), with a provision for later adding 2.5 MMTPA. Further discussions are on to import gas from Iran through a transnational pipeline transiting through Pakistan. Simultaneously, during trilateral discussions held with Myanmar and Bangladesh in Yangon during 12-13 January, 2005, Bangladesh has 'in principle' agreed to allow pipeline transit through its territory. At the first meeting of the Techno-Commercial Working Committee in Yangon on 24-25 February, a draft MoU was considered and initiated. The MoU is expected to be signed shortly at Dhaka by the Ministers of three countries concerned. The pipeline through Bangladesh is not related to the pipeline through Pakistan.

(b) Discussions are at preliminary stage. A feasibility report by BHP Billiton is an input in the discussions.

(c) Yes, Sir. This was followed by technical discussions in Delhi on 14-15 February, which are to be resumed in Tehran on 5 March.

(d) The import of natural gas by pipeline from well-endowed sources to the West and East of India are indispensable to ensuring the nation's energy security. Abdundant gas availability will significantly trigger maximum investment in industrialization and electrification, and is, therefore, essential to our attaining and sustaining the targeted growth rate in GDP of 7%-8% per annum.

**Gas Pipeline Policy**

102. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of a new Gas Pipeline Policy to put up a National Gas Grid;

(b) whether the representation to have a two-tier regulatory structure has been received from the State Government of Gujarat;

(c) whether Government are agreeable to leave transmission part to a State level regulator exclusively; and

(d) by when, the new Gas Pipeline Policy shall be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The salient features of the proposed Policy are as follows:—

1. All the natural gas pipelines will be laid in accordance with the Authorization granted by the Regulator, under a transparent mechanism.

2. Regulator shall develop a comprehensive set of technical standards and safety standard as well as a code for grid connectivity.